

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are presented for further examination. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 4-10 are new.

In the Office Action mailed September 10, 2003, the Examiner objected to claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite because of antecedent basis problems with certain limitations in the claims. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 and canceled claim 3 to overcome the rejection.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,792,347 ("Deneka") or over Joechem ("High-Speed Bubble-Free Coating of Optical Fibres on a Short Drawing Tower," 10/1/1985).

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Thus, claims 1 and 2 are now in condition for allowance.

New claims 4-10 are directed to a coating method wherein a fibre is passed through an organic liquid coating composition containing material for forming an organic coating, followed by adjusting the amount of liquid coating composition to be applied to the fibre, and curing of the liquid coating composition to form a solid protective organic layer on the fibre, which includes conducting a gas containing nitrous oxide over the liquid coating composition. Inasmuch as these limitations have been found to be allowable over the art of record, applicants submit that claims 4-10 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

Application No. 09/720,448
Reply to Office Action dated September 10, 2003

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
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